United Nations E/CN.7/2018/11

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
3 January 2018

Original: English

Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Sixty-first session
Vienna, 12–16 March 2018
Item 6 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem

Strengthening international cooperation in combating illicit opiates originating in Afghanistan through continuous and reinforced support to the Paris Pact initiative

Report of the Secretariat

Summary

In its resolution 56/3 entitled "Strengthening international cooperation in combating illicit opiates originating in Afghanistan through continuous and reinforced support to the Paris Pact initiative", the Commission on Narcotic Drugs welcomed and reiterated its support to the Paris Pact initiative as one of the most important international frameworks and a unique platform for genuine partnership between States, competent international organizations and other relevant stakeholders in the fight against opiates originating in Afghanistan. The Commission continued to call upon Member States, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other entities, to ensure the full implementation of the Vienna Declaration, the outcome document of the Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners on Combating Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan, held on 16 February 2012. As requested by the Commission, the present report describes the steps taken by UNODC to implement the resolution in 2017, the fourth year of implementation of the fourth phase of the initiative.

* E/CN.7/2018/1

V.18-00038 (E) 180118 190118

Please recycle

I. Background

1. The Vienna Declaration adopted at the Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners on Combating Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan, held in February 2012,[1] is a statement of international commitment to act in a balanced and comprehensive manner against the menace of opiates originating in Afghanistan. In the Declaration, participants prioritized four main areas, also known as pillars, for enhanced cooperation: (a) regional initiatives; (b) financial flows linked to traffic in opiates; (c) preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals; and (d) reducing drug abuse and dependence. The Conference signified an important landmark for the Paris Pact, as partners reaffirmed their common and shared responsibility towards combating opiates. The Vienna Declaration serves as a blueprint for the activities of the Paris Pact partnership and reflects the partnership's commitment to strengthening international and regional cooperation to counter, in a balanced manner, the global challenge and threat that opiates pose to international peace and stability in different regions of the world.

2. In its resolution 56/3 entitled "Strengthening international cooperation in combating illicit opiates originating in Afghanistan through continuous and reinforced support to the Paris Pact initiative", the Commission on Narcotic Drugs recognized the initiative's importance as one of the most significant international frameworks and a unique platform for genuine partnership between Member States, competent international organizations and other relevant stakeholders in the fight against opiates originating in Afghanistan.[2]

3. The Paris Pact has two dimensions. The first is the partnership itself, made up of 58 countries and 23 organizations, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The partnership is responsible for defining priorities and implementing measures in line with the Vienna Declaration, based on the principle of shared responsibility. The second dimension is the global programme established by UNODC on behalf of the partnership to provide coordination support through the programme's three components developed during the preceding phases: the consultative mechanism, the research and liaison officer network, and information management. Currently, the fourth phase of the programme is under way. It was launched in May 2013 with a budget of approximately $6.5 million.

4. The Paris Pact partnership continues to play a pivotal role as a global advocacy platform at the highest political level for concrete action aimed at reducing the traffic in opiates, the cultivation of opium poppy and the production and global consumption of opiates by prioritizing technical assistance. The partnership itself has adapted its strategy to reflect the scope of evolving geographic and thematic partnerships and shifting trends along opiate trafficking routes.

5. The Security Council recognized the Paris Pact initiative in its resolution 2274 (2016) as one of the most important frameworks in the fight against opiates originating in Afghanistan as part of a comprehensive approach to peace, stability and development in Afghanistan, the region and beyond.

6. The magnitude of the illicit opiate market is one of the most significant international policy challenges faced today, especially with the level of opium poppy cultivation at a new record high. Potential opium production increased by 87 per cent compared to 2016. Opium poppy cultivation has expanded to new regions, and intensified where it was already present.

7. Concerted efforts, political will, cooperation and the support of the international community are needed to respond effectively to the multiple drivers behind the increase in opium poppy cultivation and to address the variety of issues related to the opiate problem and the trafficking in opiates. In that context, the Paris Pact remains a vital mechanism. Further relevant international frameworks in the area of drug

[1] See E/CN.7/2012/17.
[2] See E/CN.7/2013/14.

control and international cooperation are the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan and other regional initiatives led by Paris Pact partners.

8. The international community continues to underscore the links between drug trafficking and other forms of transnational organized crime. The increased complexity of drug demand and supply clearly demonstrates the need to continue to strengthen the Paris Pact partnership and adapt its approach to shifts in opiate trafficking.

9. The support of the Paris Pact partnership for the four pillars of the Vienna Declaration is linked to the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets.[3] Under the Global Programme, the 81 members of the partnership receive assistance in prioritizing their support in line with the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. The three pillars related to law enforcement are linked to Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels). Particularly relevant to the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals are the first, second and fourth pillars. The first pillar (regional initiatives) is linked to target 16.a (Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime). The second pillar (financial flows linked to traffic in opiates) is linked to target 16.4 (By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime). The fourth pillar (reducing drug abuse and dependence) is linked to target 3.5 (Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse).

10. The Vienna Declaration is the framework for the partnership's response to the international commitments aimed at countering traffic in narcotic drugs and addressing links with other forms of organized crime, outlined in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem".[4]

II. Status of implementation of Commission resolution 56/3

11. In its current, fourth phase, the Paris Pact initiative is active in four areas, also known as action areas. The Paris Pact: (a) functions as a forum for global dialogue; (b) adapts responses to evolving threats along opiate trafficking routes; (c) enables the promotion of good practices; and (d) enhances the formulation of evidence-based policy and strategy formulation.

A. Strategic and expert-level dialogue

12. The priorities set under Paris Pact policy, the resulting outcomes and the discussions conducted at the operational level continue to highlight the necessity of keeping a sustained response to trends in trafficking along the Balkan, northern and southern routes. Developments along those routes underline the importance of cooperation among countries, regions and organizations.

13. To date, three expert working groups have been held about the three law-enforcement pillars of the Vienna Declaration (the first, second and third pillars), in line with the objectives set by the Paris Pact partners at the thirteenth Policy Consultative Group meeting, held in February 2017. The fourth meeting, related to the health pillar of the Vienna Declaration (the fourth pillar), will be held in the second quarter of 2018, as will the fourteenth Policy Consultative Group meeting.

[3] See General Assembly resolution 70/1.

[4] General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.

14. The expert-level meetings built on the previous expert forums held during the current, fourth phase of the Paris Pact initiative. In 2017, they once again reflected the heightened engagement of international and regional organizations within the Paris Pact partnership: two of the three law-enforcement-related expert working groups held since the previous report were hosted by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre.

Global dialogue

15. The meeting of the expert working group on precursors relating to the third pillar of the Vienna Declaration, was hosted in Bucharest on 23 and 24 October 2017 by the Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre. The meeting brought together 61 participants representing 21 countries and 8 international organizations. Participants reviewed trends in the use of routes and techniques to smuggle precursor chemicals destined for use in heroin production and the use of Internet platforms to divert precursor chemicals. They also looked at international investigations into trafficking in precursors and information-sharing between regional intelligence centres.

16. The meeting of the expert working group on illicit financial flows deriving from the trafficking in opiates originating in Afghanistan, relating to the second pillar of the Vienna Declaration, was hosted jointly by the Government of Serbia and the mission to Serbia of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The meeting was held in Belgrade on 21 and 22 November 2017 and was attended by 60 participants representing 19 countries and 5 organizations. Participants focused on updates on current threats, methods to assess those threats and activities to promote a better common understanding of the threats posed by illicit financial flows. Discussions also centred on initiatives to disrupt illicit financial flows, including the development of new methodologies, on impact indicators and on inter-agency and international cooperation. Participants further highlighted technical assistance needs and new capabilities to enhance the partnership's understanding and the disruption of illicit financial flows.

17. The meeting of the expert working group on cross-border cooperation (the first pillar of the Vienna Declaration), was hosted by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The meeting was held in Tehran on 11 and 12 December 2017 and brought together 52 participants representing 14 countries and 6 international organizations. Participants reviewed trends and patterns in the production of, trafficking in and demand for opiates, and the use of special investigative techniques in support of the anti-narcotic efforts of law enforcement agencies, including controlled deliveries. They discussed the role of international and regional law enforcement cooperation centres, including strategies and efforts to promote capacities to facilitate the exchange of criminal intelligence and multilateral operations.

18. The recommendations put forward by the three expert working groups will be considered for endorsement at the fourteenth Policy Consultative Group meeting.

19. The partnership's operationally focused gap analysis is a recurring exercise aimed at identifying concrete actions to address gaps under each of the four pillars of the Vienna Declaration. Each year, the findings were discussed in an expert dialogue. The three expert meetings on the supply of drugs held in 2017 looked at recurring cross-cutting issues, namely research, interregional cooperation, intelligence-sharing and multilateral operations, capacity development, tackling illicit financial flows, legal cooperation and maritime trafficking. To effectively implement the Vienna Declaration, these issues must be addressed in a cohesive manner at the country, regional and global levels.

Adapting responses to evolving threats and promoting good practices

20. The discussions at the expert meeting on precursors held in Bucharest underscored the need to facilitate meetings for relevant regional hubs to discuss

precursor trafficking cases, initiate operational responses and conduct case meetings with the support of UNODC, the International Narcotics Control Board and the regional hubs. The objectives of such case meetings would be to link cases and identify and prosecute individuals and groups involved in precursor trafficking. The utilization of risk management tools and the incorporation of financial investigations into precursor investigations were areas for further action by the partnership.

21. At the expert meeting on illicit financial flows held in Belgrade, participants spoke about adapting the partnership's response to evolving threats; the need to develop strategies and techniques to reduce the risks posed by corruption to financial investigators involved in drug trafficking investigations; the importance of disrupting the criminal abuse by drug traffickers of money and value transfer services; and disrupting the use of offshore service providers by opiate traffickers. Participants identified several good practices that had been initiated under the Paris Pact initiative and needed to be promoted further. Those included the training course on Security Council resolution 1267 (1999) and other activities geared toward disrupting "contactless" drug purchases, supporting and delivering workshops on illicit financial flows to experts along all the main opiate trafficking routes, supporting and expanding asset recovery networks and further developing briefings and training on civil forfeiture.

22. In Tehran, the expert meeting on cross-border cooperation called for the study and promotion of best practices on investigative techniques, including controlled deliveries, to dismantle drug trafficking supply chains. The experts also advocated the use of existing international and regional law enforcement centres and other cooperation platforms, such as the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, the Joint Planning Cell and the Triangular Initiative, to exchange intelligence, coordinate multinational operations and foster strengthened cooperation with financial intelligence units and prosecutorial, investigative and central authorities to target drug trafficking and related illicit financial flows. The participants stressed the importance of implementing learning programmes and training for anti-drug officers where best practices could be exchanged. Finally, they considered conducting meetings for case officers involved in investigations into multinational operations.

Enhancing evidence-based policy and strategy formulation

23. At all three expert meetings related to the supply of drugs, participants emphasized the importance of monitoring changes in opiate trafficking to enhance the partnership's common understanding of the opiate threat, of dismantling illicit drug supply chains and related illicit financial flows, and of preventing drug-related financing of terrorism.

24. The dialogue at the expert meeting on illicit financial flows emphasized the significant gaps that remained in the international community's current understanding of the opiate trafficking business model. The experts encouraged the participation of countries situated along all the major opiate trafficking routes, as well as reinforcing efforts to study areas relating to the work of the Financial Action Task Force on international money-laundering networks. Both aspects were considered essential to strengthening the responses to opiates trafficking.

B. Update on the UNODC Paris Pact programme

25. Through its Paris Pact Coordination Unit, UNODC acts as the coordinator for the Paris Pact partnership and supports it in realizing its goals. During the reporting period, the UNODC Paris Pact programme continued to supply information to partners about the threat posed by illicit opiates and promote and facilitate activities under the Paris Pact initiative, thereby linking policy and operational elements. The programme is an overarching, interthematic and interregional coordination mechanism aimed at institutionalizing partnerships. During the reporting period, the

programme, and by extension the UNODC Paris Pact Coordination Unit, has provided coordination support, interfaced with partners, facilitated the sharing of information and reported on partnership priorities.

26. During the reporting period, an in-depth midterm evaluation of the fourth phase of the programme was completed. The evaluation, managed by the Independent Evaluation Unit, exclusively addressed the programme dimension of the Paris Pact specifically designed to support the implementation of the Vienna Declaration. The Paris Pact initiative itself is considered an ongoing process in view of the continued relevance of the Vienna Declaration and the strong political support that exists for the four-pillar structure and the Paris Pact initiative as a whole.

27. The main purpose of the midterm evaluation was to take stock of best practices and lessons learned, identify areas for improvement and offer suggestions for the continuation of the fourth phase. The evaluation team identified ways to improve the programme's support to the partnership and assessed to what extent the recommendations stemming from the evaluation of the third phase (2010–2013) had been implemented.

28. The evaluation of the third phase had resulted in two sets of recommendations, one addressed to the partnership and the other to the programme. The evaluation team looked at the recommendations addressed to the partnership to the extent that those had a bearing on the coordination role carried out by the programme, and assessed to what extent they had been implemented.

29. To further refine the scope of the evaluation, several elements were excluded based on the partnership's principles, which had been reiterated with unanimous backing at the thirteenth Policy Consultative Group meeting. Excluded were the following: the requirement to take a global approach to the opiate threat, for which the Paris Pact initiative has to be global in nature; the utility of the UNODC Paris Pact programme as a global cooperation platform; the common and shared responsibility of the international community to combat opiates; the validity of the Vienna Declaration as the foundation for consensus-building and priority-setting; the balanced and comprehensive approach institutionalized within the four-pillar architecture of the Vienna Declaration; UNODC as the technical lead agency for the Paris Pact initiative in operationalizing the Vienna Declaration; and the technical assistance provided by partners, including UNODC, to support the implementation of the Vienna Declaration.

30. The results of the evaluation were disseminated through the UNODC Paris Pact programme and will be presented to the Paris Pact partnership in early March 2018 to allow for a discussion on how the programme could best support the partnership's strategy to combat opiates and inform the development of new strategic approaches.

31. Together, the expert and policy meetings described above make up the first component of the UNODC Paris Pact programme, the consultative mechanism. The two other components, the field-based research and liaison officer network, and information management, support the first and underpin the four action areas that translate the partnership's efforts into tangible action to achieve the initiative's objective.

Global dialogue

32. Through its first component, the consultative mechanism, the UNODC Paris Pact programme fosters dialogue among the 81 partners that make up the Paris Pact initiative. One of the objectives of the programme is to facilitate the comparative advantage UNODC has in leveraging the collective will of the partnership to streamline responses to the opiate threat.

33. The UNODC Paris Pact Coordination Unit, through the Paris Pact Coordinator, facilitates processes and reinforces the extensive information-sharing and communication systems already in place for the partners.

34. The Automated Donor Assistance Mechanism was initially developed by the UNODC Paris Pact programme as an Internet-based project database. In recent years, it has evolved into an active information hub with a variety of additional functionalities that cover a wide array of issues related to the Paris Pact and, in particular, the implementation of the Vienna Declaration.

35. The Paris Pact Coordination Unit has conducted a needs assessment survey among the partners to gauge their expectations of the Automated Donor Assistance Mechanism. The results were taken on board in the midterm evaluation to inform discussions about the direction the platform will take in the future.

Promotion of good practices

36. The UNODC Paris Pact programme aims to bring together all UNODC operational capacity at the global, regional and country levels, taking into consideration the outlook and goals of the programme, in particular the identification of priorities for action and the formulation of recommendations at expert meetings.

37. During the reporting period, the network of research and liaison officers continued to function as the primary point of contact in the field for the Paris Pact with respect to the four pillars of the Vienna Declaration in support of the consultative mechanism and as a complement to the UNODC Paris Pact Coordination Unit. Research and liaison officers were based in UNODC field offices along the northern and Balkan trafficking routes, operating under the supervision of the Paris Pact Coordinator.

38. The network continued to facilitate multiple UNODC programmes covering a variety of interthematic issues, thereby supporting the implementation of the Vienna Declaration. The network was closely involved with global data-collection, analysis and research initiatives spearheaded by the UNODC Research and Trend Analysis Branch. Both parties built on each other's strengths to provide the partnership with information.

39. A further example of how the UNODC Paris Pact programme promoted good practices was the close collaboration between the research and liaison officer located in Central Asia and the global, regional and country programme teams of UNODC in delivering specialized training to strengthen the research capacity of law enforcement practitioners.

Enhancing evidence-based policy and strategy formulation

40. Research has been instrumental in "connecting the dots" and creating an evidence base for action beyond the country level and in providing the Paris Pact partnership with strategic information. In countries where the Paris Pact has invested in research, there is more capacity for examining the national, regional and international dimensions of drug trafficking and for mapping drug trafficking routes and their branches.

41. During the reporting period, the network of research and liaison officers of the UNODC Paris Pact programme continued to contribute to reports and studies by the UNODC Research and Trend Analysis Branch. Examples include the *World Drug Report 2017* and the study currently under way on trafficking in opiates along the northern route, for which the network collected data and conducted research and analysis. The research function of the network remains under the technical guidance of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch.

42. The research and liaison officer network continued to provide assistance to Member States on the completion of global UNODC surveys as part of the mandated annual data-collection effort of UNODC.

43. The research and liaison officers located in Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia provided data, liaison and research support to the project

"Measuring and assessing organized crime in the western Balkans" managed by the Crime Research Section of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch.

44. The 2017 Paris Pact country fact sheets, closely aligned with the *World Drug Report* cycle, were published in January 2018. They included data on indicators where reporting had traditionally been weak, reflecting the partners' commitment to sharing data and investing in their respective national information systems. This approach makes it possible to "connect the dots" and is a key to the success of the research done under the UNODC Paris Pact programme.

45. The Paris Pact, as an intergovernmental framework, can guide the choice of research topics. Research feeds directly into the expert-level dialogue, supports the setting of priorities and helps to identify organizations and countries for outreach and eventual inclusion in the partnership.

46. The fluid sharing of information and analysis and the investment in research under the UNODC Paris Pact programme have made it possible to develop the Drugs Monitoring Platform, a system that centralizes information on drug trends and generates national-level data to inform the annual reports questionnaire, as well as the *World Drug Report* and other publications.

47. The Drugs Monitoring Platform is an online tool for collecting, monitoring, mapping and sharing drug-related data. The Platform is a UNODC product jointly managed and funded under the UNODC Paris Pact programme and the Afghan Opiate Trade Project of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch. Operated by the coordination and analysis unit at the UNODC regional office for Central Asia, it supports the global data-collection process within UNODC. During the reporting period, the Drugs Monitoring Platform continued to facilitate the implementation by the Paris Pact partnership of Commission resolution 56/3.

48. During the reporting period, the updating of the Drugs Monitoring Platform continued jointly with the Afghan Opiate Trade Project. An improvement plan was developed on the basis of a needs assessment conducted among UNODC programmes and sections including the UNODC/World Customs Organization Container Control Programme, the Global Programme against Money-Laundering, the Maritime Crime Programme, the Drug Prevention and Health Branch, the Regional Section for Europe and for West and Central Asia, and other sections of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch that had expressed an interest in the Platform.

49. Upgrading the Drugs Monitoring Platform from a tool serving mainly the Research and Trend Analysis Branch and the Paris Pact to one meeting the needs of multiple stakeholders reinforces the "one UNODC" approach. The coordination and analysis unit at the UNODC regional office for Central Asia in Tashkent has initiated the enhancements outlined in the improvement plan under the supervision of the Paris Pact Coordination Unit and the Afghan Opiate Trade Project.

50. In line with the recently endorsed Secretariat-wide strategy of the Office of Information and Communications Technology regarding the online services of the United Nations, a decision was made in 2017, following a comparison of costs and available support, to relocate the Drugs Monitoring Platform to servers at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

51. During the reporting period, to address previously identified shortcomings, increase the accessibility, security and functionality of the system, and prepare the Platform for relocation to New York, new terms of use and a comprehensive access policy were defined. The migration of the Platform is strategically led by the UNODC Paris Pact programme and is ongoing.

52. Two new Platform functionalities are currently under development under the supervision of the UNODC Paris Pact programme team: a UNODC/WHO treatment facility tool, developed in consultation with the Drug Prevention and Health Branch, and a training database, developed in consultation with the Regional Section for Europe and for West and Central Asia. The training functionality will be used to

monitor participants in law enforcement training conducted under a number of UNODC projects in West and Central Asia so as to increase the efficiency of capacity-building efforts and avoid duplication.

C. Synergies

1. Paris Pact partnership

53. The Paris Pact initiative is open to all interested countries and organizations. The initiative is particularly useful as a mechanism for dialogue and for the exchange of best practices.

54. During the reporting period, the initiative gained further importance thanks to strengthened partnerships with organizations other than UNODC. Collaboration was continued and intensified with the European Police Office, the International Narcotics Control Board, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre.

55. Throughout the fourth phase of the Paris Pact initiative, newly emerging routes, patterns and trends in opiate trafficking posed ongoing and new challenges, requiring the partnership to adjust accordingly, broadening the geographical coverage of the Paris Pact to include more countries situated along drug trafficking routes and engaging in the global dialogue on opiates. New actors that were not yet partners, such as Qatar, expressed an interest in the discussions of the Paris Pact and took part in the meetings of the expert working groups held in 2017 to benefit from the partners' collective expertise and experience.

56. Such increased participation serves the objectives of the partnership by fostering interregional coordination, strengthening engagement in Paris Pact thematic operational meetings and bolstering cooperation with stakeholders across both the drug supply and demand priorities of the Vienna Declaration.

57. The strategic priorities of the Paris Pact defined at the Policy Consultative Group meeting are operationalized as part of the multiple programmes, funds, and projects delivered by members of the partnership, including UNODC.

2. UNODC

58. The primary functions of the UNODC Paris Pact programme are to facilitate political dialogue, institutionalize partnerships, foster the development of strategic priorities by the partnership and mobilize the appropriate comparative advantage of multiple UNODC interventions to align support by UNODC as a whole for implementing the four pillars of the Vienna Declaration.

59. The linkages between the UNODC Paris Pact programme and other UNODC programmes exist at two very distinct levels: the overall engagement of UNODC as an equal partner to the Paris Pact, and the facilitation of the engagement in Paris Pact processes of a multitude of UNODC global, regional and country programmes. The achievements of the programme are thus the result of multidivisional and multibranch collaborative efforts within UNODC as part of the "one UNODC" response to the implementation of the Vienna Declaration.

60. As the technical lead organization of the Paris Pact, UNODC continued to support the partnership's efforts to enhance cooperation based on the four pillars of the Vienna Declaration. The cross-thematic nature of the partnership's areas of cooperation necessitated the interregional involvement of and coordination across all divisions of UNODC.

61. The progress of the expert-level dialogue continues to be largely driven by the active involvement of UNODC thematic lead experts specialized in the four pillars of the Vienna Declaration. They represent the Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch, the Drug Prevention and Health Branch, and the UNODC country office for Afghanistan. During the reporting period, they provided technical guidance to the

expert working groups at all stages of implementation, including the development of meeting recommendations.

62. More specifically, the UNODC Paris Pact programme closely interacts with UNODC at the global, regional and country levels, including through the Regional Section for Europe and for West and Central Asia (through the regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, the regional programme for South-Eastern Europe and the programme for Central Asia), the Justice Section (through the Maritime Crime Programme), the Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch (through its Implementation Support Section and that Section's global Container Control Programme and Global Programme on Building Effective Networks against Transnational Organized Crime; and through the Cybercrime and Anti-Money Laundering Section and that Section's Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism), the Drug Prevention and Health Branch (through its Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section and all that Section's global programmes), and the Research and Trend Analysis Branch (through its Drugs Research Section and the Afghan Opiate Trade Project, the Laboratory and Scientific Section, the drugs and data development unit and the Crime Research Section through the project "Measuring and assessing organized crime in the western Balkans").

63. The UNODC regional programmes continued to play an important role in putting strategies in motion by acting as the principal operational delivery vehicles of UNODC for the Paris Pact in their respective regions.[5] The regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, supported by efforts in the respective country programmes, is uniquely positioned to increase the coherence and effectiveness of Paris Pact partner interventions in specific countries of the region. A more intense involvement in the Paris Pact by the regional programme in the Arab States and East Africa would further support the objective of the partnership.

D. Sustainability of the UNODC Paris Pact programme

64. The fourth phase of the UNODC Paris Pact programme extends until March 2018 and is financially supported by Austria, France, India, Norway, the Russian Federation, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Discussions are under way with partners with a view to expanding the donor base to respond to the call for strengthening the initiative's collective response along all opiate drug trafficking routes.

65. Since issuing its report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2017, the UNODC Paris Pact programme has raised approximately $460,000 from France, the Russian Federation and the United States to cover the implementation costs for the workplan for the second half of 2017 and 2018. Funding is crucial to carrying out the work of the programme.

66. The findings and recommendations of the ongoing in-depth midterm evaluation of the UNODC Paris Pact programme will be used to take stock of best practices and lessons learned for the continuation of the fourth phase, identify ways of improving the UNODC Global Programme's support to the partnership and suggest means to bolster the systematic engagement of all members of the partnership. The current total cost of the evaluation is $100,200.

[5] The draft resolution entitled "Strengthening international cooperation in combating illicit production of and trafficking in opiates originating in Afghanistan within the framework of the Paris Pact initiative" (E/CN.7/2016/L.4) was not adopted by the Commission at its fifty-ninth session owing to the lack of consensus on the phrase "opiates originating from Afghanistan". At the fifty-ninth session, Afghanistan, France and the Russian Federation each made statements confirming their continued commitment to the Paris Pact despite the lack of consensus on the specific wording.

67. Since its inception 14 years ago, the UNODC Paris Pact programme has always received the funding requested to implement its activities, as determined at the Policy Consultative Group meeting. The articulation of intended pledges by partners at the Policy Consultative Group meeting, however, would guarantee support of annual programme activities and ease planning for the year ahead. The absence of set pledges and financial commitments restricts future programme activities.

68. The Policy Consultative Group meeting remains the appropriate forum for the partnership to review the initiative's strategy, welcome new partners and determine priorities for the year ahead.